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COC HINLEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, *the* *19th of February 1929.* / *8th of Kumbham 1104.*

The House met at Half past Eleven of the Clock with the President in the Chair. Dr. A. G. Menon and Mr. K. T. Mathew were absent.

Questions and Answers.

Vernacular Education of Muslim Girls.

256. Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they are doing anything for the encouragement of the Vernacular Education of Muslim girls ;

(b) will the Government be pleased to state whether they were giving a stipend of eight annas per head to Muslim girls attending Vernacular Primary schools ;

(c) will they kindly say how long the said stipend was continued ;

(d) will the Government be pleased to state when it was stopped ;

(e) and why it was done ;

(f) will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received representations from the Muslim community praying for the restoration of the said stipend ;

(g) will they kindly state when it was that the Cochin Muslim Educational Society made its representation to the same effect through its deputation that waited on the Diwan ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—(a) Yes ; Vernacular Education is free.

(b) Yes; in about a dozen Vernacular schools for just over 2 months.

(c) and (d). Vide answer to (b).

(e) Muslim girls in Anglo-Vernacular Primary schools were getting a monthly stipend of Rs. 2. The number attending such schools having increased, it was considered not possible to continue this rate with the amount likely to be allotted for the purpose every year. The number attending Vernacular schools also was not encouraging. As it was more necessary to encourage Vernacular education among Muslim girls, it was

thought advisable to do away with the rate of Rs. 2 and to fix a uniform rate of 8 as. irrespective of the school, be it English or Malayalam in which the pupils were reading, but on the representations to Government of certain representatives of the Muslim community the old rate of Rs. 2 in English schools was revived in the case of old pupils, new admissions being required to be paid at the rate of 8 annas, and Muslim girls in Malayalam schools were left without stipends as before.

(f) Yes.

(g) 20th July 1927.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Sir, may I know whether Vernacular education is not free to all, irrespective of caste, creed or colour?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—It is, Sir.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—As answer to (e), it is said that the stipends, used to be given to girls attending Vernacular schools, have been stopped, on the representation of certain leading men of the community. I know there was a representation for the restoration of the old rate of stipends. I do not know whether there was a representation for the discontinuance of the stipends used to be given to girls attending Vernacular schools.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The representation was for the grant of both. When the revival of the old rate was required, it was not possible to give anything to the pupils studying in the Vernacular schools.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—So this was not done at their initiative. From the answer it would seem that this was stopped at their initiative.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—They did not ask that particularly. But they insisted on the revival of the old grant. The Government found that funds would not permit for the grant of both and so this order was passed.

President.—So their representation was that the rate of Rs. 2 should be revived in the case of pupils studying in Anglo-Vernacular schools.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Their representation was that the old rate of Rs. 2 should be revived and a uniform rate of 8 as. should be given to students in Vernacular schools also.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Primarily it is a question of funds.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—I thought that there was a representation for the discontinuance of this 8 as.

President.—There were not enough funds. We were giving a uniform rate of 8 as. But they wanted the old rate of Rs. 2 to be revived.

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Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The representation was merely to revive the Rs. 2 stipends. Of course 8 as. we had already given and we had passed orders.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—May I know whether the Government have received any representation for the restoration of the 8 as. and may I know what they propose to do on it?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Government have not taken any definite steps.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Am I to understand that the matter is under consideration or whether they have finally closed it?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Primarily it is a question of funds. We have not revived the Vernacular school stipends.

President.—There was a representation to revive the Rs. 2 stipends in the Anglo-Vernacular schools. We gave that and stopped the 8 as. given to the Vernacular schools.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Was there not a request that the 8 as. stipends in the Vernacular schools should be given?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—That has not been granted.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—So, that is under consideration?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—That has not been granted.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—What I understand is that in the case of new admissions only 8 as. is given. Even the old rate of Rs. 2 is not continued to be paid to all in English schools. I understand that the feeling of the community now is that a uniform rate of 8 as. should be substituted for the present arrangement in all schools if it is not possible to give 8 as. stipends to pupils studying in Vernacular schools in addition to the present arrangement.

President.—Government is inclined to introduce a uniform rate of 8 as. for all schools. Objection was taken and representations were made. So the old rate was not disturbed and the stipends in the Vernacular schools were stopped.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—If the Government finds it is not possible to have both, then the community desires that at least a uniform rate of 8 as. be introduced in all schools.

President.—There I think there is a difference of opinion among your community.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—I do not think there is any difference of opinion.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Is your community for the revival of the uniform rate of 8 as.?

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—If both are not possible, then their desire is that a uniform rate of 8 as. might be given in all schools.

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Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—That might be considered.

President.—But then English education is absolutely essential to some girls so that some girls might come up. For that should not some encouragement be given?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The difficulty is we do not know who represents the Muslim community. As soon as the Government passed the first order on the representations of some leading men of the community, other representations came up. Those representations contained some reasons also.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—The question who represents the Muslim community cannot be answered now. That difficulty exists in all communities.

President.—When we passed the order that Rs. 2 will be given as stipends to the old pupils in the English schools and 8 as. to the new admissions in such schools, other representations came and we were told that a uniform rate of 8 as. in all schools was acceptable. What are we to do?

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—As I understand the position of the community it is this. The Vernacular schools should not suffer for want of funds in any case. So that their wish now is that there must be a uniform rate of 8 as. in all schools.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The fear is this, Sir. If we go back to the old order of things and introduce a uniform rate of 8 as. there may be again another representation against such an arrangement.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—So far as I am aware there is no likelihood of any such thing.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—But there was one. They insisted on Rs. 2.

President.—We want higher education for our girls. We must wait for a time till we get sufficient girls advanced in English education, for the reduction of the stipends of Rs. 2. That was the argument raised 4 or 5 years ago.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—It may be that was their argument; but they did not mean that Vernacular schools should not have the benefit of 8 as.

President.—But then are they particular of this 2 rupees?

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—I do not know. But now I have ascertained their sense also.

President.—You have got two sets of people at Azhikkode and let them come to an amicable conclusion.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—If they are prepared to accept the first proposal we can do it.

President.—I think the question of funds would not stand in our way to give effect to that arrangement. There is

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no difficulty for doing so. You ascertain the views from both of them and submit their case together. You know who the dividing parties are ; I think it is one Aykya Sangham and one Educational Sangham.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Yes, Sir.

Improvement of Kunnamkulam town.

257. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether the opening of the road or lane referred to in question No. 156 of the Budget Session of 1101 and subsequently in question No. 157 of the Legislative Session of 1103, and which the Government have admitted to be necessary for the safety of the lives of women and children, has been taken up for execution ;and if so, what has been done so far in the matter ;

(2) what items of work were done with the amounts allotted for the improvement of Kunnamkulam town in the last 2 years ;

(3) whether the whole allotted amounts were utilised in the last 2 years ;

(4) what will be the cost for opening the road or lane referred to in part (1) of the question ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(1) No.

(2) A list showing the items of works done in the last 2 years with the allotments is appended. (*Vide Appendix I.*)

(3) Yes.

(4) Between Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 4,000 approximately.

Wells not thrown open to all classes.

258. Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Will the Government kindly state:—

whether there are any wells, all over the State, maintained by the Sanitary Department or by any other Department of the Government, which are not thrown open for use by all classes of His Highness' subjects; if there are, which are those wells, where are they located and what is the particular reason in each case for excluding any portion of the public from the use of the well in spite of the fact that it is maintained by public money ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The attention of the Member is invited to the answer furnished to question No. 438 published on page 1247 of the Council Proceedings of the Legislative Session of 1101. It is a laborious work to give particular reasons in each case for excluding any portion of the public from the use of the well. Some of the wells are not thrown open to all classes on account of caste reasons and practice and others

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